

# *The* GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FALL 2005



# The GREEN LIGHT

L No. 3

FALL 2005

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Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday of the month and are open to Association members. Please call Jack for time, date, and location.	

Copies of *The Green Light* may be purchased for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar at Thames.



## The Point Association

The Point Association is a group of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by getting to know each other; preserving our historic heritage; maintaining the Point's residential character; beautifying our parks, streets, and piers; and promoting public policies that strengthen all of Newport's neighborhoods.

**Cover Image:** This house on the corner of Walnut and Second, the childhood home of Matthew Perry (1794-1858), is featured in the exhibit on the Commodore on view at the Newport Historical Society until September 6, 2005. (Courtesy of the Newport Historical Society).



As the new editor of *The Green Light*, I would like to second the sentiments with which Kay O'Brien ends her article on our past editor Alan Wall (p. 11) and wish him and his family a happy and successful new life. It is with considerable trepidation that I take on this assignment as his replacement because, though I have been a life-long admirer of the architectural treasures of this remarkable neighborhood, I am only now beginning to discover its human ones. I will need all the help I can get to even begin to fill Alan's shoes. My thanks go out to all those who have already provided their support.

Alice Clemente

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We're turning the corner on another season so that must mean it's time for another Green Light. We're also saying good bye to *Green Light* editor, the recently retired Commander Alan Wall, and welcoming new editor Alice Clemente. Shelley Kraman succeeded Sarah Gill as social coordinator for The Point Association and inaugurated her tenure with a very successful cocktail party at Villa Marina.

The pages of this issue also remind us of various other comings and goings. An article on our neighborhood's construction boom is balanced by photos and remembrances of the destruction wrought by the September '38 hurricane. And we know that the stories about gardening and plant sales will soon be followed by tales of leaf raking and snow shoveling.

As the summer passes by, I think we can agree that this season on the Point was generally quiet. No Tall Ships or other events caused major disruptions. Two projects on the distant horizon have led to discussions at our monthly board meetings. These include the proposed new train station at Elm Street & America's Cup

Avenue and the DOT's ramp construction for the Pell Bridge. There are questions about whether the train station is really just a retail outlet in disguise since it's doubtful that a commuter train will run on this island in my lifetime. The Pell Bridge ramp modification would funnel traffic along the railroad right of way between Third and Farewell Streets. This would have a major impact on our neighborhood. We'll keep an eye on plans for these projects as the months pass.

Finally, we mourn the passing of Joe Vars, a long-time resident of Second Street, proprietor of The Water's Edge flower shop, and former president of The Point Association. Joe and Angela moved to Portsmouth several years ago but still attended many Point functions. Joe was a leader who will be greatly missed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack".

## PRESSURE POINTS

*These issues and other "pressure points" are discussed at almost all Point Association Board meetings. If you have concerns, let your Board know or plan to attend a meeting, first Monday of every month in the library of Harbor House, 7:00pm.*

The proposed new railroad station will not move forward without approval and/or permits from various agencies and boards - zoning, historical district, planning commission, and so forth. But, the proposal still exists and the situation bears watching, as new and/or larger commercial enterprises on the Point are not compatible with our existing community. There is some enthusiasm among those interested in the development of the northeast side of the city for moving the Newport Train Station to the site of the Gateway Center. This would fit in with the idea of a comprehensive transportation terminal - water, rail, and bus/car - but would present serious problems such as new traffic patterns and old parking woes.

This is all part of the rising "buzz" about the effect current plans will have on the Point. It now appears not unlikely that the circular road/connector road from

the Pell Bridge into Newport will follow the original (1980s?) proposal and run along the right-of-way associated with the railroad tracks. Surely this is too close for comfort if you live within "hooting" and "fume" distance from those tracks. We trust all these ambitious and sometimes-conflicting plans will solicit input from the residents of the Point. Our neighborhood will suffer enormous impact. Is it unrealistic to expect some sensitivity on the part of the planners?

## JOE VARS REMEMBERED

Always with a smile, always with a beautiful floral arrangement, and always with his lovely wife, Angela — this is how Joe will be remembered by his many friends and neighbors.

In 1970, Joe founded "Waters Edge Florist" here in Newport. The Vars' beautiful home and garden on Second Street was well known for its hospitality and visual delight. Joe served as President of the Point Association for six years, and he and Angela participated in its many activities as well as hosting many international visitors. Joe was an active board member of Benefactors of the Arts, the organization that founded Secret Garden Tours.

Several years ago, Joe and Angela moved to Oakland Farm in Portsmouth and in 2003, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary all year long by inviting former Point neighbors to monthly dinner parties. Joe, a member of Star of the Sea, was instrumental in helping to see Harbor House open its doors.

Angela, we thank you and Joe for all your acts of kindness and for the many memories.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We have only one new member since our last publication and it is Alice Clemente, our new Green Light editor.

Rich and Patricia Carrubba

When someone NEW moves into your neighborhood . . . Let us know (847-5815) and we can send them a copy of *The Green Light* or invite them to the NEXT Point function!

## TALES FROM THE POINT PLANT SALE

In spite of grim weather forecasts and a fairly dismal spring, the rain held off long enough for a very successful Point Plant Sale on Saturday, May 21. We had wonderful donations from Point gardens, most notably from Marcia Mallory, Joan Simmons, Else Nesbitt and Herb Rommel. Both Marcia and Ilse were on the Secret Garden Tour this year. Joan's garden will be on the tour for RI Master Gardeners when they meet in Newport next year. Herb's iris garden was gorgeous this season; be sure to see it next year on Bridge Street.

It was when I went to pick up a second load of plants from Ilse on Third Street that I encountered the 6' x 6' gooseberry bush. We loaded it into my two-seater sports car and I thought to myself, "Who will take this bush?" It was a lovely thing – lush, full, and covered with young berries. When Chuck Bauer, fearless gardener, wandered into the sale on Saturday morning, I just knew it was a match. He spotted it right away and began circling round it. "What's this; it's big isn't it?" And, eventually, he bought it. "I have the perfect place for it," he said.

Then there was the man who "just stopped by to look." "I'm not going to buy anything." But he came back twice and left with a carload of plants. At about 10:00am a young couple showed up with three large buckets of gorgeous 'Ice Carnival' day lilies that were snapped up almost immediately. And of course, Sarah Kessler dropped in with arms full of Solomon's Seal. This year we had lots of astilbes, columbines, day lilies, hardy geraniums, lily-of-the-valley, hardy begonias (pink & white), and a little bit of everything else. To all the donors we weren't able to see in person – THANK YOU!

Jennifer Hall did a super job of coordinating solicitations from local merchants and has agreed to the job again next year. Assisting her were Merry Preston, Sarah Gill and Jane Hence. Thanks, also, to Kay O'Brien, Rich Carrubba, Elaine Cascio, Laurie Shaw, Gusina Powell, Jack & Donna Maytum, Sarah Gilson, Jane Hence, Ralph Padulla and Bruce Howe. Sean and Anita McAndrews provided the lovely setting again this year. Finally, our faithful crew for the set up and sale: Marcia Mallory, Lisa Elliot, Ruth Shore, Mike Simmons, Eleanore Flowers, Sally MacKay, Roger Devlin, and Ilse Nesbitt.



*NEXT YEAR – We need your help! No contribution is too small. We have master gardeners on call to help you. Do you have a truck or van for transport of plants? Interested in learning about what grows best in Newport gardens? Very soon we need to pass major responsibilities for the Point Plant Sale on to those with stronger backs and better knees. How about you?*

# REVEREND EZRA STILES TAKES A WALK

By Louise C. Sherman

*Reprinted from The Green Light, January 1965*


The Reverend Dr. Ezra Stiles, who was Pastor of Second Congregational Church on Clarke Street from 1755 to 1776, and later President of Yale College, took many walks along the streets of Newport in 1758. Carrying a paper, Reverend Stiles sketched in roughly but faithfully every street that existed at that time. As he went along, Stiles carefully noted down each house, indicating by numerals whether one or two story houses. With the symbol 2 he designated two story houses with two chimneys, and with the large S he indicated Stores, Still houses, Shops, and Stables. One can almost picture him as he walked along, his somber black attire relieved only by a white crossed neckpiece of that period, his learned head topped by a wide brimmed black hat, and his face a study of concentration as he paced off the long straight mile from his starting place near Extension Street to the Liberty tree at the head of Thames Street.

We know the exact day on which he paced off this measured mile, because of a notation which he placed in the lower right hand corner of the map. He wrote: "August 9, 1758. I walked from the Bars below Capt. Allen's" (the Bars so called being a gate or barricade across Thames Street) "to the tree at upper end of the Main Street and found it just 1900 Paces. I suppose about 6 of my paces go to a Rod and that gives

the length just 320 Rods or One Mile. From where I set out to the Street by Gov. Scott, Esq. was 800 Paces; from thence to Wm. Otis Shop 400; from thence to upper Watch House 200; thence to L. tree 500."

As he walked north along Thames Street, he sketched in the wharves that jutted into the harbor and carefully noted down the names of their owners - In a graph along side this section he wrote "17 wharves to the Ferry Wharf." Continuing north along Thames Street, Reverend Stiles passed the entrance to Long Wharf or "Queen's Hithe" as it was then called. He was now on the Point. The shore line of the Cove began at the north side of Long Wharf and gradually curved in close to Thames Street. Along this waterfront area, dwelling houses and shops backed up to the Cove, and behind them 9 wharves and piers of varying lengths vied with each other in the activity of this busy seaport town. The largest of these wharves extended into the cove from Thames Street at the foot of Marlborough. From this wharf the shoreline of the cove began a gradual curve westward toward Shipwright Street (or Bridge Street, as we know it today). Of this area Reverend Stiles wrote, "On the Point are 188 Dwelling Houses plus 110 stores, etc., including buildings on the W. Side of Thames Street lying N. of the Point Bridge Street and around on the Long Wharf to the west Side of the Draw Bridge. That is 140 Dwelling Houses 2 stories high, 48 one story high, 110 stores, Still houses, Stables, etc."

Reverend Stiles continued his pacing to the Liberty Tree. Here in a park at the head of Thames and Poplar Streets stands its twentieth century counterpart, a living growing symbol of our lasting regard for liberty. From here, Reverend Stiles could see the long mile stretching in a straight line back to his starting place at "Miles End." Perhaps on this same day, August 9, 1758,



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Reverend Stiles turned into Shipwright Street and made his survey of this uniquely different thoroughfare which was as colorful as its given name. Along the south side of this street the houses back up to the Cove, which came within a few feet of their back doors. Here along the north shore of the cove lived with their families men of every seafaring occupation. Here beside the furniture makers, the bakers and candlestick makers, lived sea captains and shipwrights, mariners and merchants, provisioners and privateers, and secretly maybe a pirate or two. Shipwright Street in 1758 was one of the most thickly housed streets in the town; 4 one story houses, eleven 2 story houses and 5 S on the south side, while on the north side were 19 two story houses, 3 one story houses and nine S to indicate shops, etc. Reverend Stiles passed over the Point Bridge, and from this vantage point he could see the whole cove spread out before him the Draw Bridge on Long Wharf, and maybe a ship sailing into the cove from the outer harbor to one of the wharves along Thames Street. There was always a bustle of activity with ships of all sizes sailing in and out, or at anchor there. Even at the North Side of the Point Bridge the water at high tide was deep enough for fishing, and continued north in a stream for several hundred yards to Poplar Street, where it ended in a narrow rill.

From the Point Bridge he continued west to Water Street (now Washington Street) jotting down the dwellings and other buildings along the way. He counted in all 30 two story houses, 7 one story houses, and 22 stores, etc., including those on the wharf at the west end of the street. On the north side of Shipwright Street, fronting the east end of the Point Bridge, Reverend Stiles indicated a one-story house. This was the little gambrel roofed house that stood on the street line in 1758. Before 1799 the house belonged to James Gardner, goldsmith. It was sold by his heirs on September 25, 1799, to Robert Dunham, Jr., a baker, and remained in the Dunham family until October 25, 1863, when it was sold to George A. Simmons. On December 1, 1871, George Simmons sold the house and property to Thomas Freeborn, and the house remained on the street for thirteen more years. On August 9, 1884, Thomas Freeborn petitioned the City Council for permit to move a house from Walnut Street to Bridge Street. The little gambrel roofed house was

then moved to the back of the lot. The Mercury of October 11, 1884, records that Thomas Freeborn moved a house from Walnut Street. It stood on lots #134 and #137. These lots were on the north side of Walnut Street midway between Second and Washington Streets.

Previous to 1790 this Walnut Street house had belonged to one John Goddard of Newport, Esquire, deceased, and had been mortgaged by him to Stephen Ayrault. It was moved and set down on the street line on Bridge Street in front of the little gambol house. For years only those who really knew it was there noticed the little house numbered 29 Bridge Street that stood in the rear of Mrs. Kane's house, number 31 Bridge Street. Here it remained for 80 years until September of the year 1964. It had been condemned, but luckily Robert Foley had just bought the Peter Simon house at 25 Bridge, and he decided to move the gambrel roofed cottage to the vacant lot next door where an old Colonial house had been torn down. Mr. Tom Preece moved it deftly onto its new foundation, where it adds greatly to the Colonial aspect of Bridge Street. These houses, together with a few other houses of later Colonial period, still make this street one of the most historically interesting in Newport today.

## BORN ON THE POINT

by Bill Hall, History and Archives

The Born on the Point program recognizes newborns and others who were Point residents at the time of their birth.

The next round of Born on the Point certificates will be readied for the October 2005 membership meeting. Applications must be submitted by October 1. Anyone interested in information or an application may contact Bill Hall at 846-4159.

## THE GREEN LIGHT HAS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANCE

*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from a story that first appeared in The Green Light in February 1986.*

by Bertha Mathinos, Troop Leader

During the fall of 1967, Junior Girl Scout Troop 756, meeting in St. John's Guild Hall, decided that they would like to work on their own troop badge. Most of the girls lived on the Point and felt that much significant historical information could be learned from their immediate surrounding.

After making sure the material was not covered by any other badge requirements, they obtained the approval of the Rhode Island Girl Scout Council.

Through discussion within the patrols, the girls decided on a name – Our Own Historic Point Badge – and the emblem – the green lighthouse. A friend of the troop embroidered the badge.

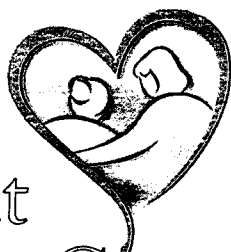


When completed, copies of the badge and its requirements were sent to National Girl Scout Headquarters where they were put on display.

The following are some of the steps required to obtain the badge:

1. On a map of Newport, locate the boundary lines of the Point.
2. Choose six historic houses and give pertinent information about date of building, location, and ownership, past and present. Make a sketch of one of the houses.
3. Name several organizations that are helping with the restoration and beautification of the Point and tell their purposes.
4. Find out some historic event that took place on the Point

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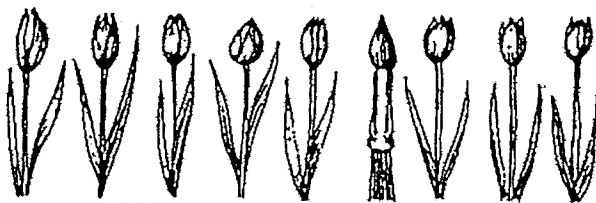
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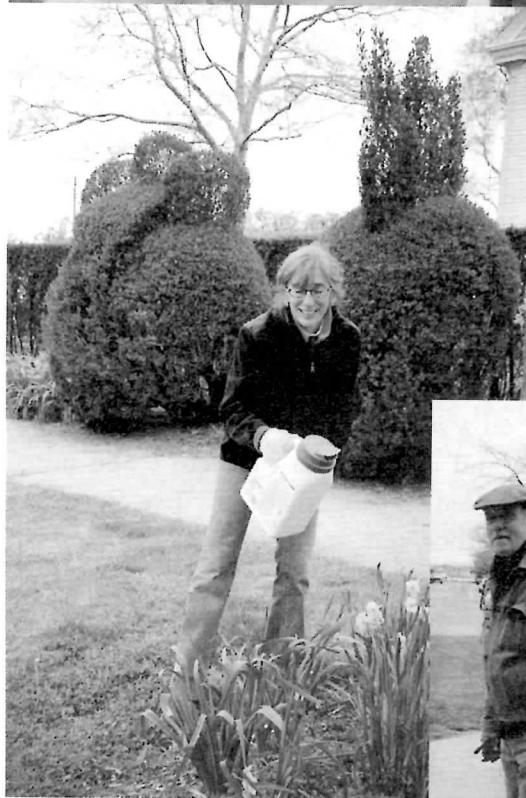
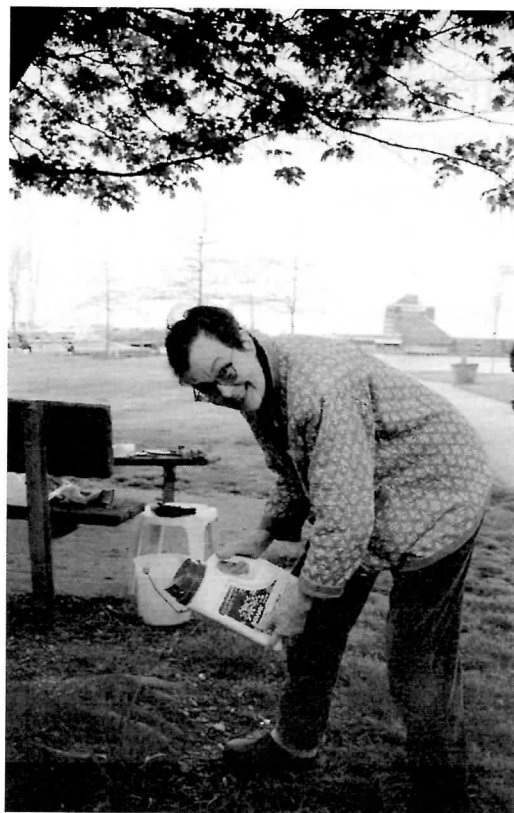
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# THE GREAT HURRICANE OF SEPTEMBER 21, 1938

by Marti Williams

Two weeks before this hurricane struck New England, an amateur astronomer, basing his calculations on sunspots, predicted unusual weather for the Northeast. But his forecast was given little credence in the press, because the last hurricane to strike New England was in 1815.

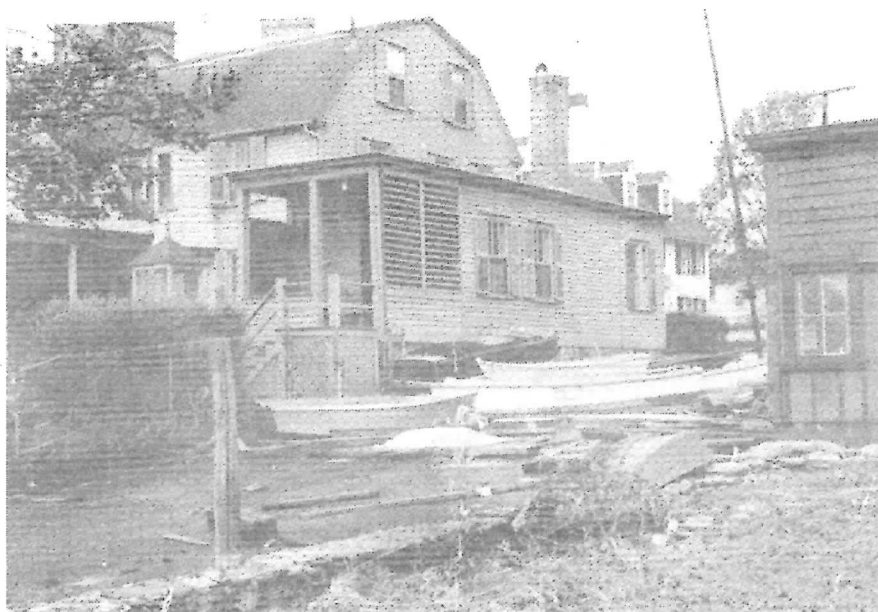
Although storm warnings had been broadcast, no one expected the tremendous force with which it struck. The usual path of a hurricane is normally to the northeast and out into the Atlantic. This time, however, this path was blocked by a large area of high barometric pressure. A southeast gale of 85 mph (Newport reported 107mph) swept up the coast driving a tide which was rising, and the highest of the year due to the autumnal equinox. The normal tide of five feet was more than tripled in a few short hours, and spectators reported waves over 30 feet high.



*Courtesy of Newport Historical Society.*

The sudden rushing waters of tidal wave dimension trapped many, and scores of lives were lost. All beach buildings, summer cottages and permanent homes on low grounds were crushed and carried away. A survey done of Aquidneck Island by the Red Cross showed that Portsmouth was hardest hit, but the island's damage and loss was enormous. In Newport and Middletown, 254 homes were destroyed and 199 badly damaged, and about 175 people were left without shelter.

In Newport, parts of Ocean Drive were destroyed and the Cliff Walk was broken in several places to depths of 20 and 30 feet. Hundreds of beautiful trees



*Reprinted from the August 1988 Green Light the 50th Anniversary of the hurricane*

were blown down, blocking traffic for several days, and loss of electricity meant no communication, on or off island, and total darkness. It was estimated at the time that damage repair would exceed two million dollars, and it did.

A letter written by Elizabeth B. Covell to her daughter shortly thereafter, described the surprising swiftness of the storm's decent onto the Point. She described the air as so "dense with flying spume and rain ... we hardly knew when boat after boat keeled over and sank". The day after the storm was sunny, and they "looked out on a scene of desolation. Every pier was gone, public and private, ten of them". She noted schooners stranded on property twenty-five feet above the now quiet harbor, and "trees, shrubbery, flower beds were brown as if from a killing frost, but this was hardly noticed, so much was waiting to be done". Her letter emphasizes that everyone pitched in to help one another rescue boats and household effects from the harbor, as well as with the clearing away of the jumbled fallen trees. Once the water system was back on, mud was cleared from basements and sand removed from equipment. Electricity was restored in a few days, and the telephone system was back in order one week later. Mrs. Covell signed off her letter: "Forelorn as everything is, we are alive, the houses are intact, our sea wall stood up, and we'll get the repairs done and the bills paid sometime and somehow. From your discouraged but not hopeless" E.B.C.

# COMMANDER ALAN WALL, RETIRED – BACK TO HIS ROOTS

by Kay O'Brien

The moving van is heading to Ohio and so is our Green Light editor. Little did he know what he was getting into when he was persuaded to take over this job. With his computer skills and his wife, Martha, an English teacher, he accepted the challenge. This meant attending monthly Point Association Board Meetings at Harbor House, getting acquainted with new writers for our quarterly bulletin, and learning about Point activities, past, present, and future. Now after retiring from his naval assignment at the War College, he's ready to move back home.

If asked "What was the highlight of your Newport assignment?" I'm quite sure he would reply his "Born on the Point" first child, Cora, born in April 2004. Alan and Martha have owned the last house on the left down on LaSalle Place, and we've all enjoyed watching Cora's progress to an independent toddler. It's been a pleasure to have the family join in our many Point activities.

With Al's retirement date approaching, the Green Light staff and Point Board decided to have a party in place of a business meeting to celebrate the Walls' contribution and their generous participation on the Point. Isabel Griffiths opened her charming colonial on Walnut Street for our lively and fun gathering on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

At Alan's official retirement ceremony, many of his family members came from Ohio, and some took extra days to enjoy Newport and an opportunity to meet some of his Green Light staff.

Our best wishes and thanks to Alan, Martha, and Cora as they take a roundabout route home, camping along the way. As a parting gift, Alan has found us a new editor, but that's another story!



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**Michael Dennis-Bale**

## A "SECRET" ABOUT SCHOOLS

KIDS ARE HEADING BACK TO SCHOOL, BUT WHERE WILL THE EXTRA MONEY NEEDED FOR ART, MUSIC AND DRAMA PROGRAMS COME FROM?

ANSWER! The students in all the Aquidneck Island schools can count on The Secret Garden Tour for arts education funding again this year just as they have for the past 21 years.

The Secret Garden Tour has awarded \$1 million dollars in grants to elementary, middle- and high-school children for their art, music and theater programs in

Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth over the past 21 years. They will be doing this again this coming school year.

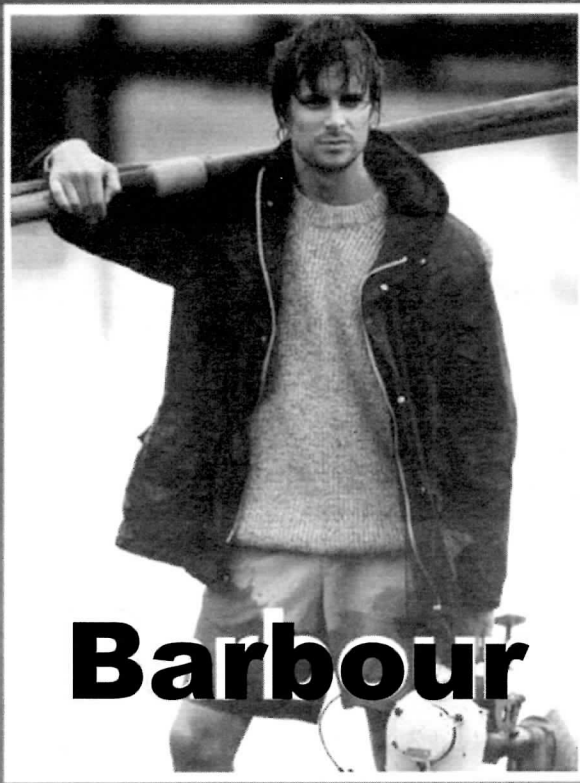
The proceeds of The Secret Garden Tour are distributed in the form of grants to art teachers, music teachers, school bandleaders, drama and dance group leaders, and others who make art, music and cultural education available in and out of the classroom for elementary, middle- and high-school students in Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth. The money is used for art supplies, sheet music and field trips to museums and other cultural venues.

The organization was created by a coalition of like-minded private citizens in 1984 as a fund-raising organization to support arts education in Aquidneck Island public schools. In September 2005, the organization is presenting its 21<sup>st</sup> semi annual garden tour program – (Spring on The Point - Fall on The Avenue & Drive).

To date, the organization has awarded \$1 million dollars in grants to schools on Aquidneck Island. The organization is a non-membership group, drawing volunteers from throughout the three communities who plan and run its fund-raising events. Point neighbors are very actively involved in this year's Fall Tour. Mary Riggs is the chair and Myra Duvally is the founder and president of the board.

For additional information on the Fall Secret Garden Tour or to volunteer to sit in a garden call 847-0514 or visit [www.secretgardentour.com](http://www.secretgardentour.com).

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*Winner of Raffle at Secret Garden Tour of Point gardens and homes in June.*

## POINT PICNIC

Neighbors and friends enjoy the summer sun at 62 Washington Street, the home of Peggy and Lyn Comfort, on June 22.

*NEXT TIME WE HAVE AN EVENT ~ Call an old friend and meet there ~ or better yet introduce yourself to new neighbors and invite them to attend with you --*

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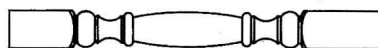
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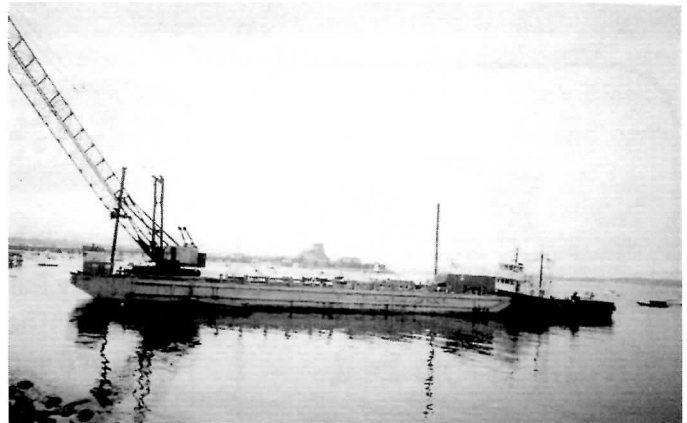
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## MAJOR RENOVATIONS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

AND THE "SUPERINTENDENTS" WHO  
KEEP WATCH OVER THE PROGRESS



# RUMINATIONS ON THE POINT

a conversation with Kay O'Brien  
(concluding part, continued from last issue)  
by Jane Hence

In a serendipitous (an adjective with which I hope readers will agree) coincidence, this morning I began a book I have owned for several years but not yet read. It is a discussion of Venice with focus on the Renaissance and I discovered in the Introduction the following: (NOTE - replace the word Venice with The Point)

"Venice combined the extremes of originality and conservatism. It was so aware of its own idiosyncrasy that it was not willing to let any sign of it perish.

A comparative lack of internal rebellion and external invasion made it possible for Venice to keep itself to itself. Its boast was to be "Serenissima," "Most Undisturbed."

.....They could preserve ...(a) difference from others only by a certain sameness among themselves, a tight internal cohesion."

Connecting the above to my conversation with Kay a day or two before beginning the book is my own thought and I do not wish to put words into Kay's mouth, as she is more than capable of doing that for herself. However, our conversation in her living room the other day touched on this very notion in an abstract sense. We who live here are very different, from one extreme to another perhaps, and also, whatever is inbetween, yet we do have a certain sameness, a cohesion, simply because we choose to be here.

Kay was the spirit behind the beginning of what is now a complete file of all Green Lights (dating from 1957). This archive began years ago when people cleaned out attics or corners and inquired of Kay if she would like this or that issue and as we know, the answer was always yes. It has turned



into an invaluable resource, now being put into twenty-first century form by our wonderful Salve Regina volunteers.

Old issues, chosen at random, invariably have lovely bits and pieces serving as delightful food for thoughts; past traditions or actions to incorporate into or begin a new one; notes on the frequent recur-

rence of issues of concern or pleasure. Kay lent several issues to me recently and I read of the caroling at Christmas on the point, of stories of a particular house or family which caused me to go in search of the address and envision what I had read about. Kay told me of a Green Light of forty years ago describing a day for tour of ten houses in the Point, open from eleven to five. How interesting it would be to do this again, with the same houses.

An old Green Light issue can provide a new perspective, a layer of knowledge, a deepening of our affection and a widening recognition of what an unusual neighborhood we all live in. I mentioned to Kay two days, just past, when I spent some time with four different people who live on the point whom I would not have known if I were not a sitter-on-my porch person or a walker-about. One instance was a fellow painter I had met in previous Paint the Point classes. She came up on my porch and we had a lovely conversation. Another one invited me to have a drink on a hot afternoon on her own porch. And so on. I mention this to underline Kay's intrepid wandering feet and the always unexpected benefits resulting from her daily travels which I am certain have inspired many to follow her habit as she has me.

Kay and I agreed to make this addendum a short one. So I will end this by noting that, in my eyes, Kay is an embodiment of the spirit of the point: remembering and valuing history and what it can teach and looking ahead to what will be history and enjoying it all thoroughly.

(The book quoted from is: *VENICE, lion city: the religion of empire*, (New York: Simon and Schuster, c 2001, pp 12, 13.))

# GARDENING ON THE POINT

by Isabel Griffith

Those tempting bulb catalogs full of gorgeous pictures of tulips and daffodils are piling up. Can you picture drifts of daffodils? Beds of magnificent Darwin tulips? Can you picture yourself digging 100+ eight-inch deep holes in your garden? Probably not. Most Point gardens are too small for big displays of spring bulbs. And some of the showiest varieties decline after a few seasons. Take heart! Try "little" bulbs. They take almost no work, very little space, last for generations, and are a lovely, natural looking harbinger of warm weather and longer days.

The "rule of thumb" for how deep to dig the hole: about three times the diameter of the bulb. Little bulbs are the size of a fingernail. It's not difficult to plant fifty bulbs in an hour, once you get started. And very early spring bloomers don't need a prepared bed. They can be planted in your lawn, along a fence or stone foundation, under deciduous trees, in a rose bed or perennial border, almost anywhere that gets some sun before the end of May.

Dainty white snow drops (*Galanthus*) are the first to appear, often before the last snow in March. Two weeks later crocus and then scilla add brilliant color. Glory of the snow (*Chinodoxa*) early in May is my favorite; there is nothing like their bright blue color. All of these tend to multiply readily. Snowdrops planted among dense stands of hostas in my garden are ready to be divided for the plant sale next spring. If you plant in the grass, mow as late as you can, and three inches high at first.

Most bulb catalogs carry several varieties of those mentioned. Don't bother with their advice about how far apart to plant. I always start with a cup-sized hole big enough to hold a cluster of five or six bulbs. Ten holes will accommodate fifty bulbs. My kind of digging and planting, and gardening!



*Phil Kane watering the flower garden. Garden Club members at Harbor House grow tomatoes from seeds.*



*Jack Mello shows his gardening expertise with his string tomatoes, shared by residents at Harbor House.*

## OUR NEIGHBORS AT HARBOR HOUSE



*Harbor House residents enjoy front row seats for fog, fireworks, cement trucks, pile drives and beautiful sunsets.*



*Residents and guests enjoy the Strawberry Festival, with homemade biscuits by Vivien Pyne and hand-picked strawberries by Pat and Malcom Glazgard. Pat Glazgard, in foreground, welcoming guests.*



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## FAVORITE RECIPES

### OK! Who ate it? Potato Salad

by Kit Weiss

Here's the story. I made this potato salad during the afternoon, for dinner that night, and placed it in the ice box. (Don't raz me about this. I simply never can spell that other word.) So, the children came home and snacked, as teens will. Then when dinner was ready the entire neighborhood heard my dulcet tones as I proclaimed the above title!

Now the secret is (and don't say I never told you): put it in the refri... way at the back with the usual "leftovers being saved until they turn green" cover. You *may* still have it at dinner time. The problem is that this potato salad tastes great hot. I have finally given up and I make it for dinner at dinner time.

RECIPE serves two or three hungry teens or 12 adults at a carry in supper

Several nice sized potatoes peeled and cut up - some chunky - some smaller.

*This is because one of the charms of this salad is the creaminess of the overcooked smaller pieces.*

One large onion chopped

Three or four eggs

One pound bacon cut up into small pieces

Place all in a big pot and boil for 20 minutes. Yes, you hard boil the eggs with the rest.

All germs are killed with 20 minutes of boiling. Yes, you boil the bacon.

The children loved this until they discovered the boiled bacon and now they make me fry it.

Drain and save that water! If you like homemade soup, this is a great base.

Gently fold in: one half pint of sour cream, an equal amount mayonnaise and plenty of dill.

I don't think I have ever added too much dill.

Here is another tricky step: Add salt to taste. No, no, don't start eating it now. Remember this is for dinner. Good luck.

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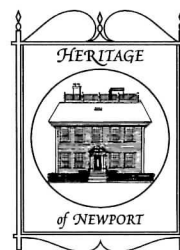
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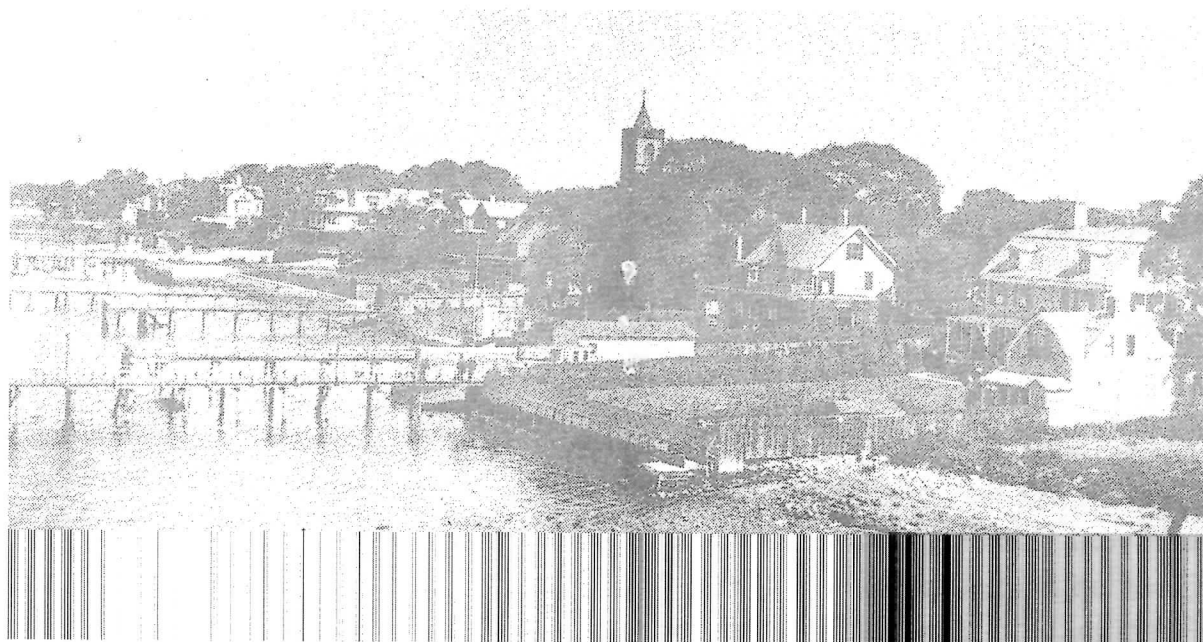


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# Nostalgic Moment from our Scrapbook



One of these piers, severely affected by the forces of nature in September, 1938, is now undergoing a "man-made" transformation. See p. 14.

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## The Point Association Membership Form

*Please make check payable to The Point Association and mail with form to PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. A subscription to The Green Light is included with all memberships.*

\_\_\_\_ Individual \$10      \_\_\_\_ Family \$15      \_\_\_\_ Subscriber \$25      \_\_\_\_ Patron \$40

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### COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES

Your participation is welcome. Please check the categories for volunteering.

- ☐ Beautification    ☐ Waterfront    ☐ Green Light    ☐ Plant Sale    ☐ Membership
- ☐ Event Planning    ☐ History and Archives    ☐ Activities for children    ☐ Communications

# SAVE THE DATE

## ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY      OCTOBER 20      HARBOR HOUSE      7:00 pm

*Learn about the "History of the Point" archiving and computerization project  
undertaken this year in celebration of our 50th Anniversary*

Use chapel entrance on Battery Street

## FALL BULB PLANTING & CLEAN UP

SATURDAY      OCTOBER 22      9:00 am

Join your friends and meet new neighbors

Clean up Storer and Battery Parks

Plant bulbs that will bloom next spring.

For more information, please call Marcia or Coles Mallory, 849-5659.

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